

Project Overview: Portugal

Active citizenship in a diverse EU

Agrupamento de escolas de murça

Description of the activity:

- Describe the content, methodology and expected results of the activity.

- How is it going to be related to or integrated with the normal activities of the involved schools?

Murça is a little town in the north of Portugal where the population is getting old and lives essentially from agriculture. Culture and traditions are still present and it will be important to preserve them and enable students to recognise the importance of them in their life and what they can do to preserve and promote it. We'll have in mind all these aspects and work with students to get them to know better their surroundings and let them realize that they can take an active part in their community and in Europe.

As the general trend of Europe, Murça has an aging population and the school has a special needs unit. We intend to promote the social volunteering by visits to the local nursing homes where they can animate and liven up the seniors and the children. The students prepare all the project steps, what to present or what to share during the visit and evaluate the activity results the methodology will be an active, collaborative and participative approach. All this knowledge will flow into the tutorial on these topics. This activity will

certainly be a key to promote common European values like foster social integration, enhance intercultural and between generations understanding and a sense of belonging to a community. Europe needs more cohesive and inclusive societies which allow citizens to play an active role in democratic life. Provide to young students these experiences certainly make them think about their role in society and what they can do to their local community and for Europe.

Visiting the local wine and olive oil cooperatives the students will understand the importance of these products in the local economy. This will provide knowledge about the importance of the student's local culture and heritage and what they can do to let it know to other fellow students. The students will take notes, photos, ... and work on it, editing images and texts. In this way, students can share with others all the information they collected.

These LTA aims to sensitize students to some aspects of Portuguese culture, heritage and social practices intending to make young people aware of responsible and active citizenship and respect the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of EU. Partners' schools will be familiarized with the way of handling the topics and will be motivated to continue in their school or community likewise. They

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can't experience culture and enjoy the variety and richness of heritage if they don't have the opportunity to travel, that's why the mobilities are essential.

The activities will be integrated in everyday school life as we have clubs that students attend voluntarily. We also have a class of Education for Citizenship that the school provide one hour a week for each class where the goals and values to work on are the general ones that the activities of this project intends to reach.

How is participation in this activity going to benefit the involved participants?

The contents we intend to work on are related to European goals and values. We intend to reach some of these goals, such as combat social exclusion and discrimination; enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity; respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity through carrying out our activities. These are common to the member countries in a society in which inclusion, tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimination prevail. These values are an integral part of our European way of life. In that way, students involved in this project will have the opportunity to experience the culture, to enjoy the heritage, and to participate in social actions that arouse a sense of solidarity and an active

participation in the local community. In this way the students will be able to learn with their student fellows' in the course of the visit ways to know and value their own culture and heritage and to think about actions that they can carry out in their community to provide a more supportive society. This is a way to face the challenges of Europe in the 21st century, the main goal of this project.